

REMARKS

Claims 28-32 and 34-46 remain in the application after amendment herein. All of the claims were rejected under Section 102 based on the Primm reference (US 7,159,022). The claims have been amended to more clearly identify that which is patentable over this prior art. Applicants request reconsideration in view of these amendments and the following remarks.

All of the independent claims are combinations each now requiring a feature not found in the prior art. Claim 28 now includes the feature that

“all of the automation devices forward each request which arrives via a receiving mechanism to all other automation devices for which it has knowledge.”

Contrary to conclusions reached in the outstanding office action, the above-note feature is not at all disclosed in the Primm reference. Specifically, in rejecting claim 33 (now canceled) citation was made of Col. 8, lines 45-51, but this passage does not suggest the recited subject matter. Accordingly, it is submitted that amended claim 28 is distinct and non-obvious over the art of record. Further, each of the other independent claims 37 and 44 now incorporates a similar feature and should also be allowed.

Applicant also respectfully disagrees with other rejections presented in the Office Action. As an example, claim 35, which requires canceling of the recited forwarding request “on the basis of a time limit” should not have been rejected. This is because the cited passage (Col. 8, lines 28-44) does not provide any support for the claimed subject matter. That is, learning of a shutdown or device failure, or not receiving a response to a ping – are not the same as canceling a request “on the basis of a time limit.”

Claims 36, 41 and 46 have been amended to more clearly define the intended subject matter. According to claim 36 (amended) “the participating automation devices are managed by a device other than one of the automation devices which is connected to the data transmission system.” Claims 41 and 46 have been amended to provide similar distinctions. With these amendments it can be concluded that the Primm reference does not teach or suggest the claimed arrangements and methods. Disclosure at Cols 14 and 15 of the Primm reference does not suggest the subject matter now presented in the amended claims.

Serial No. 10/519,627
Atty. Doc. No. 2002P08760WOUS

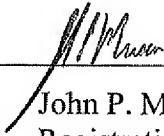
Conclusion

Based on the amendments presented and the distinctions made of record the application is in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d), or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10/17/07

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